

lecithin-cholesterol acyltransferase activity. The plasma protein enzyme lecithin-cholesterol acyltransferase (LCAT) catalyzes the transfer of fatty acid from the sn-2 position of lecithin to the free hydroxyl group of cholesterol. Various mutations of the LCAT gene are known. Individuals who are homozygous for a non-functional LCAT mutant have classic LCAT deficiency disease, characterized by clouding of the cornea, normochromic anemia and glomerulosclerosis. Mutations of the LCAT gene that result in some residual LCAT activity lead to Fish Eye disease, characterized by opacity of the cornea and hypoalphalipoproteinemia. Thus there is a need for compositions and methods for the prevention and therapeutic treatment of atherosclerosis and conditions associated with LCAT deficiency. This invention satisfies this need by providing compositions and methods for increasing the serum level of LCAT activity.

Dated: February 22, 1999.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer.

[FR Doc. 99-5419 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is owned by an agency of the U.S. Government and is available for licensing in the U.S. in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development.

ADDRESSES: Licensing information and a copy of the U.S. patent application referenced below may be obtained by contacting J.R. Dixon, Ph.D., at the Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852-3804 (telephone 301/496-7056 ext 206; fax 301/402-0220; E-Mail: jd212g@NIH.GOV). A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement is required to receive a copy of any patent application.

Entitled: Transcription Factor Decoy and Tumor Growth Inhibitor.

Inventor: Dr. Yoon S. Cho-Chung (NCI) U.S.P.A. 08/977,643—Filed November 24, 1997.

Alteration of gene transcription by inhibition of specific transcriptional regulatory proteins has important therapeutic potential. Synthetic double-stranded phosphorothioate oligonucleotides with high affinity for a target transcription factor can be introduced into cells as decoy cis-elements to bind the factors and alter gene expression. The CRE (cyclic AMP response element)—transcription factor complex is a pleiotropic activator that participates in the induction of a wide variety of cellular and viral genes. Because the CRE cis-element, TGACGTCGA, is palindromic, a synthetic single-stranded oligonucleotide composed of the CRE sequence self-hybridizes to form a duplex/hairpin. The CRE-palindromic oligonucleotide can penetrate into cells, compete with CRE enhancers for binding transcription factors, and specifically interfere with CRE- and AP-1-directed transcription in vivo. These oligonucleotides restrained tumor cell proliferation, without affecting the growth of noncancerous cells. This decoy oligonucleotide approach offers great promise as a tool for defining cellular regulatory processes and treating cancer and other diseases.

This research has been published in J. Biol. Chem. 274, 1573-1580 (1999).

This invention is available for licensing on an exclusive or non-exclusive basis.

Dated: February 24, 1999.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer.

[FR Doc. 99-5420 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material,

and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Cancer for Institute Initial Review Group, Subcommittee A—Cancer Centers.

Date: March 29-30, 1999.

Time: 7:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Embassy Suites, Chevy Chase Pavilion, 4300 Military Rd., Wisconsin at Western Ave., Washington, DC 20015.

Contact Person: David E. Maslow, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Grants Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6130 Executive Boulevard—EPN 643A, Bethesda, MD 20892-7405, 301/496-2330.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.392, Cancer Construction; 93.393, Cancer Cause and Prevention Research; 93.394, Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Research; 93.395, Cancer Treatment Research; 93.396, Cancer Biology Research; 93.397, Cancer Centers Support; 93.398, Cancer Research Manpower; 93.399, Cancer Control, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 26, 1999.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99-5410 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of General Medical Sciences; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of General Medical Sciences Special Emphasis Panel, Pharmacology.

Date: March 26, 1999.

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.